

Lincoln Boyhood

The Living Historical Farm

This re-created pioneer homestead preserves 4 of the original 160 acres owned by Thomas Lincoln. A cabin and outbuildings that date from the early 19th century were moved from elsewhere in Indiana and reassembled on this site. There are also split-rail fences, livestock, vegetable and herb gardens, and field crops. Park staff in period clothing perform a variety of activities typical of the 1820s. The farm area is open every day from mid-April through September; in October it is open only on the weekends; from November through mid-April the buildings are closed and are not staffed. However, visitors may still visit the farm and browse about the area.

The Crop Area The first spring the Lincolns were in Indiana they put in 6 acres of corn, the preferred crop because of its many uses for humans and livestock. The corn they raised grew to heights of 15 to 18 feet.



The cabin, though not the Lincolns', is typical of the region and era.

Beans and pumpkins were planted in the corn rows so they could climb on the corn stalks. Few farmers in southern Indiana raised wheat for market, because of the inconvenience and expense of having it milled, but they usually sowed enough for their own use. They also grew oats, as well as flax and cotton for making their own fabric.

Besides raising crops, every frontier family kept a vegetable garden. We don't know exactly what was in the Lincoln's kitchen garden, but common vegetables were potatoes, turnips, gourds, beans, cucumbers, melons, asparagus, cabbage, onions, broom-corn for making brooms, and herbs for preservatives. Pumpkin was a popular with the farm animals as it was with the people. It was stewed, fried, eaten raw, and made into molasses and pies. "Punkin leather," a great favorite with children, was small dried strips of pumpkin rolled into balls.

Living history interpreters feed chickens (*above left*), make shingles (*left*), and do other farm tasks.

Planning Your Visit

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is just outside Lincoln City, Indiana. From I-64, take exit 57. Go south on U.S. 231 to Gentryville. Turn left (east) on Ind. 162; go two miles to the park entrance on the left.

The park is open year-round, except Thanksgiving, December 25, and January 1. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with extended hours in summer. A fee is charged. There are picnic tables at the farm area parking lot. Picnic, camping, and recreation facilities are available in nearby Lincoln State Park.

Stop first at the Memorial Visitor Center, which has an information desk, a brief film, a bookstore, and museum exhibits. Sculptures, carved from Indiana limestone, and quotations on the visitor center's exterior walls depict events in Abraham Lincoln's life.

Pioneer Cemetery Abraham's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, died of milk sickness in 1818 and was buried on this hill. Her exact burial place is unknown, but there is a memorial grave marker visible from the trail. The cemetery is also the resting place of others in the Little Pigeon Creek community. Oak and hickory trees are rem-



The Memorial Visitor Center, above; Nancy Hanks Lincoln memorial headstone, right.

nants of the forest that grew here when the Lincolns arrived.

Cabin Memorial Site A bronze casting of an actual cabin foundation symbolizes the home that the Lincolns' occupied during their Indiana years.

Trails The Lincoln Boyhood Trail connects the Pioneer Cemetery to the Living Historical Farm. The Trail of Twelve Stones begins at the Living Historical Farm and ends near the grave site. The two trails form a loop of about one mile. The Boyhood Nature Trail is a one-mile loop through the woods north of the Living Historical Farm.

Lincoln Spring This was the main source of fresh water when the Lincoln's lived here. The spring was one of the main reasons Thomas Lincoln chose this site for his homestead.

The Allee provides a wide vista across from the memorial building.

For a Safe Visit Please stay on established trails. • The railroad line near the Living Historical Farm parking area is still in use. Be careful crossing the tracks. • Take precautions against insect bites and poison ivy. • The park is generally accessible to persons in wheelchairs. Portions of the trails are slippery when wet.

More Information Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is part of the National Park System, one of more than 380 areas that are important examples of the nation's heritage. Visit our website at www.nps.gov. For information about this park contact: Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial P.O. Box 1816 Lincoln City, IN 47552 812-937-4541 www.nps.gov/libo

